

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A home network system, comprising:

at least two electric devices; and

a network based on a predetermined protocol for connecting the electric devices,

wherein a message transmitted between one electric device and the other electric device comprises:

a command code field implying an operation that is to be performed by the other electric device, and

an argument field extendable according to a version of a protocol applied to one electric device for performing the operation.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the other electric device receives the message, extracts arguments from the argument field according to a version of a protocol applied to the other electric device for performing the operation, and processes the arguments.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the other electric device discards arguments which are not extracted from the argument field.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein, when arguments included in the argument field of the message are deficient, the other electric device sets the deficient arguments as predetermined values.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An electric device based on a predetermined protocol ~~including~~ comprising:

at least a lower layer and an upper layer,

wherein the upper layer is configured to:

~~receives~~ receive from the lower layer a message including a command code field implying an operation that is to be performed by the electric device, and

an argument field extendable according to a version of a protocol applied to the electric device for performing the operation,

~~extracts~~ extract a command code from the message,

~~extracts~~ extract arguments from the argument field according to the version of the protocol applied to the electric device for executing the command code, and

~~executes~~ execute the command code.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electric device of claim 6, wherein the upper layer ~~discards~~ is configured to discard arguments which are not extracted from the argument field.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electric device of claim 6, wherein, when arguments included in the argument field of the message are deficient, the upper layer ~~sets~~ is configured to set the deficient arguments as predetermined values.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a message in a home network system, the home network system including at least two electric devices, and a network based on a predetermined protocol for connecting the electric devices, the method comprising the steps of:

generating and transmitting, at one electric device, a message including a command code field implying an operation that is to be performed by the other electric device, and

an argument field extendable according to a version of a protocol applied to one electric device for performing the operation;

extracting, at the other electric device, a command code from the message;

extracting, at the other electric device, arguments from the argument field according to a version of a protocol applied to the other electric device for executing the command code; and

executing, at the other electric device, the command code.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step for discarding, at the other electric device, arguments which are not extracted from the argument field.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step for setting deficient arguments as predetermined values, when arguments included in the argument field of the message are deficient.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A storage means for storing a message structure in a home network system, the home network system including:

at least two electric devices, and

a network based on a predetermined protocol for connecting the electric devices,

wherein a message transmitted in the home network system comprises:

a command code field and

an argument field for executing the command code, and

wherein the argument field is ~~varied~~ extendable according to a version of a protocol applied to the electric device.

15. (Original) The storage medium of claim 14, wherein, when the version of the protocol applied to the electric device is the lowest version, the argument field comprises only a basic argument field for the version of the protocol.

16. (Original) The storage medium of either claim 14 or 15, wherein, when a lower version of

the version of the protocol applied to the electric device exists, the argument field comprises a basic argument field for the lower version of the version of the protocol, and an extend argument field for the version of the protocol.

17. (Original) The storage medium of claim 16, wherein the message including the extend argument field is an extendable message included in the protocol, or an invariable message which is not included in the protocol but is defined for the intrinsic functions of the manufacturer.

18. (Canceled)